

What is claimed is:

1. A musical tone signal generation apparatus installing at least one performance operator which is physically separated from a main unit to issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by a user, said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals;

a storage for storing performance data;

an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage; and

a manual performance controller for controlling the musical tone signal generator to generate the musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions output from the performance operator being manually operated by the user.

2. A musical tone signal generation apparatus installing at least one performance operator which is physically separated from a main unit to issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by a user, said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals;

a storage for storing performance data;

an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage;

09745672 122100

a manual performance controller for controlling the musical tone signal generator to generate the musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions output from the performance operator being manually operated by the user; and

first and second manual operable members, each of which is manually operated by the user to control the musical tone signal generator in accordance with a prescribed function,

wherein the first manual operable member is provided for the main unit while the second manual operable member is provided for the performance operator.

3. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the storage is provided for a musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts so that the storage stores performance data with regard to at least a prescribed part within the plurality of parts and tone color data with regard to all of the plurality of parts, so that the automatic performance controller controls the musical tone signal generator to generate musical tone signals of automatic performance using a prescribed tone color assigned to the prescribed part whose performance data is stored in the storage, while the manual performance controller controls the musical tone signal generator to generate musical tone signals using a tone color which is selected from among tone colors designated by the tone color data other than the prescribed tone color and is assigned to the performance operator.

4. A musical tone signal generation apparatus installing a plurality of performance operators each of which is physically separated from a main unit to issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual

0074567-122100

operations made by users, said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals;

a storage which is provided for a musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts, so that the storage stores performance data with regard to at least a prescribed part within the plurality of parts and tone color data with regard to all of the plurality of parts;

a tone color assignor for assigning tone colors, designated by the tone color data of the plurality of parts, respectively to the plurality of performance operators;

an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage; and

a manual performance controller for controlling the musical tone signal generator to generate the musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions output from the performance operators being manually operated by the users.

5. A musical tone signal generation apparatus installing a plurality of performance operators each of which is physically separated from a main unit to issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by users, said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals;

a storage which is provided for a musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts, so that the storage stores performance data with regard to at least a prescribed part within the plurality of parts and tone color data with regard to all of the plurality of parts;

a tone color assignor for assigning tone colors, designated by the tone color data of the plurality of parts, respectively to the plurality of performance operators;

an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage;

a manual performance controller for controlling the musical tone signal generator to generate the musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions output from the performance operators being manually operated by the users; and

first and second manual operable members, each of which is manually operated by the user to control the musical tone signal generator in accordance with a prescribed function,

wherein the first manual operable member is provided for the main unit while the second manual operable member is provided for one of the plurality of performance operators.

6. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~ further comprising:

a loader for loading the performance data into the storage from an external; and

an assignment activator for automatically activating the tone color assignor to proceed to assignment of the tone colors to the plurality of performance operators.

7. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to ^{Claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1~~ ~~to 6~~ further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation

00745672 122100

instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

8. A musical tone signal generation apparatus accommodated for multiple users to play music in an ensemble, comprising:

a main unit;

a plurality of performance operators, each of which is physically separated from the main unit and is manually operated by each user to issue tone-generation instructions;

a storage for storing performance data and tone color data with respect to at least a single musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts respectively corresponding to a plurality of tone colors;

a tone color assignor for assigning the plurality of tone colors to the plurality of performance operators;

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals based on the performance data stored in the storage so as to play automatic performance or for generating musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions being issued from each of the plurality of performance operators so as to play manual performance using each of the tone colors assigned to the performance operators; and

a plurality of speakers for producing musical tones corresponding to the musical tone signals of the automatic performance or manual performance, wherein the plurality of speakers are arranged on the main unit in connection with the plurality of performance operators respectively.

9. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 8 wherein each

of the plurality of performance operators installs at least a pad whose surface is to be struck by each user to issue a tone-generation instruction.

10. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising a control panel that is mounted on the main unit to provide manual controls for the automatic performance and the manual performance.

11. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising a sub panel that is mounted on the performance operator to provide manual controls for the automatic performance.

12. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 8 wherein each of the plurality of performance operators further installs an informer that informs the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction.

13. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the informer is a speaker that produces sound in response to issuance of a tone-generation instruction.

14. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the informer is a light emitter that radiates light in response to issuance of a tone-generation instruction.

09745672 122100

add a' >